Rural Welfare Work.

18. * **Mr. T. Krishna Pillai** (*Kalkulam and Vilavankod* cum *Neyyattinkara*): Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the nature and the extent of the rural welfare work carried out by them since the last budget session of this House ;

(*b*) the total amount set apart in the Budget for the year 1115, for rural uplift ; and

(*c*) the total amount expended up till now for rural development ?

Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner and President, Economic Development Board*) : (*a*) To the extent of the funds placed at the disposal of the Economic Development Board for payment of grant for Rural Reconstruction work, the Board assists with grants voluntary organisations carrying on rural reconstruction work in various parts of the country. In doing so, the Board satisfies itself, through the inspections and reports of its Rural Reconstruction Committee, that each institution qualifying for a grant does sound and satisfactory work, but that, with some financial assistance, it could do still better and more extensive work. In 1115, such assistance has been given to 10 institutions, whereas their number in 1114 was only 6. These are exclusive of the Rural Reconstruction Centres of the Y. M. C. A., which receive a lump sum annual grant of Rs. 3,000 for this purpose.

The Board also offers financial assistance, in suitable cases, for training in Rural Reconstruction work to persons nominated by responsible organisations, so that after such training they may return to the rural area concerned and organize Rural Reconstruction work there. In 1114, two such persons were trained, one for the coastal area and the other for the High range.

Besides, when there is a request from a rural area for advice and guidance, the Rural Reconstruction expert on the Board or a person trained at Government expense, proceeds to the area and freely gives the advice and guidance required.

(*b*) The total amount set apart in the Budget for 1115, for payment of grants for Rural Reconstruction work is Rs. 7,000.

(*c*) The amount expended in 1115 for Rural Reconstruction work, under the auspices of the Board is Rs. 3,850 while Government have disbursed direct, a lump sum of Rs. 3,000 to the Y. M. C. A. and Rs. 150 towards the expenses of the All-Travancore Rural Service exhibition, thus making up the total of Rs. 7,000 in 1115.

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